



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DISEASE—The Oxford Medicine—Volume VIII. By various authors: Henry A. Christian, A.M., M.D., LL.D., Sc.D.(Hon.), M.A.C.P.(Hon.), F.R.C.P.(Can.), D.S.M.(A.M.A.). Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physics, Harvard University, Sometime Clinical Professor of Medicine, Tufts Medical School; Physician-in-Chief Emeritus, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; Dale G. Friend, A.B., M.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate in Medicine, Harvard Medical School; and Maurice A. Schnitker, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Director of Medicine, St. Vincent's Hospital, Toledo. Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y., 1953. 985 loose-leaf pages, \$25.00.

This separate volume on therapy is a welcome and long needed addition to the loose-leaf *Oxford Medicine*. The owner of the *Oxford Medicine* should hereafter have prompt and authoritative information concerning new treatment with a reduction in the number of supplementary pages which he has to buy in order to keep his system up to date. The system can also become more useful for daily reference purposes and can emphasize an aspect of medicine in which it has not been outstanding: that is, modern and practical therapeutics.

The approach of the authors is somewhat surprising. They have purposefully avoided descriptions of more than one method of therapy. The methods described are often only those with which one or more of the authors has had personal experience. While this simplifies the treatment and gives it greater personal authority, it also limits the scope of the book. It must be noted that some of the recent one-volume books on therapeutics (Reh fuss, Conn, Kyser) contain a greater variety of treatment, more attractively presented.

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DISEASES OF THE RETINA—Second Edition. Herman Elwyn, M.D., Senior Assistant Surgeon, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. The Blakiston Company, Inc., New York, 1953. 713 pages, 243 illustrations, \$12.00.

In this, the second edition of Dr. Elwyn's book on "The Diseases of the Retina," several new chapters have been added and others revised. The increasing importance of retrolental fibroplasia in ophthalmology has been recognized and a chapter devoted to the subject; this has been included in the chapter on vascular malformations. Other new chapters have been added on ocular tuberculosis and sarcoidosis.

A revision of the chapter on diabetic retinopathy was necessitated by the work of Ballantyne and Loewenstein and Ashton and Friedenwald. The research of these scientists leading to the discovery and elucidation of capillary aneurysms in the retina in diabetes has done much to improve our understanding of diabetic retinopathy.

Due to changing concepts of essential hypertension the chapter dealing with this topic has been reconstructed.

With the publication of this second edition not only ophthalmologists but all physicians have a ready reference text on diseases of the retina.

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY. Peter A. Herbut, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Jefferson Medical College. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1954. 893 pages, 528 illustrations, \$14.00.

This book is an attempt to cover nearly all of the special fields of pathology useful to the surgeon in a concise form. As a result the presentation includes a large amount of detail without, however, providing enough on most subjects to satisfy a pathologist or anyone who desires full discussions. The presentation is almost entirely descriptive, without any effort to discuss pathogenesis or the functional significance of anatomical changes. There are, however, good bibliographies following all chapters.

The arrangement of subjects is on a regional basis, as is customary in presentations of pathology for surgeons. This, however, serves to minimize the consideration of fundamentals of pathology, and of interrelationships between pathological processes.

A few of the more than 500 illustrations are poor; several photomicrographs are not in sharp focus. The majority of the illustrations are satisfactory, however, and some are excellent.

This book should be useful as a source of simple anatomical facts concerning most diseases encountered by surgeons, and as a reference list for published articles of surgical interest in the field of pathology.

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MOTHER AND BABY CARE IN PICTURES—4th Edition. Louise Zabriskie, R.N., Director, Maternity Consultation Service, New York City. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1953. 244 pages, 255 figure numbers and 11 tables, \$3.00.

The illustrations in this book strike the reviewer as its most valuable asset. From them a parent may gain useful understanding and suggestions, and be stimulated to further reading and interest in the life and behavior of a baby and his mother. The illustrations in the chapters on Baby Clothes and Nursery Needs are particularly good, and show the types and choices of equipment available.

The text, while usually informative and accurate, will be considered by some to be too authoritarian and not sufficiently permissive of other ways or other ideas. It is admittedly difficult in a book of this sort to make statements which are sufficiently definite to be useful and at the same time not likely to produce conflict with other equally competent opinion. Nevertheless, it is true that there is often more than one way of accomplishing the desired end and this is at times lost sight of in the text. In addition, the wording of the text occasionally is such that an apprehensive mother might easily find new problems to worry about. "Nearly all diseases predispose the body to other and more serious diseases," for instance, is a sentence with an ominous note. The insertion of the word "may" would probably be a useful addition.